

Meeting to Study Nurse Shortage Called by Mason

Columbia Hospital May Have to Close One Ward

Emergency steps may have to be taken to meet what is regarded as an alarming shortage of nurses in Washington hospitals, Commissioner Guy Mason said today as he arranged for a conference of hospital and medical leaders at 2:30 p. m. tomorrow to review the whole picture.

The problem, which has become more acute in recent weeks because of the enlistment of many nurses in the Army and Navy Nursing Corps, was crystallized by a report from Col. N. L. McDiarmid, superintendent of Columbia Hospital, stating that one entire ward there may have to be closed for lack of a sufficient number of nurses.

Commissioner Mason said he had been advised also that the Garfield Hospital already has been forced to close some rooms for the same reason, and he added there was a shortage of nursing personnel at Gallinger Hospital and the District Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Glenn Dale, Md.

The Commissioner said one possibility he wished to discuss with the hospital and medical leaders would be whether the nursing staffs of various public and private hospitals might be pooled, so that numbers of them might be shifted from place to place wherever there was the greatest need.

Salaries to Be Considered. He said the question of the salaries paid nurses here also would be considered, and that possibly an appeal might be made to Congress to help out on the financial situation.

Discussing the use of nurses' aides to lighten the work of the limited number of graduate nurses available, Commissioner Mason said it might be found desirable to urge that such workers be brought here from nearby Southern States, although he added that this in turn undoubtedly would accelerate the housing problem.

The superintendents of all Washington hospitals, except the military hospitals, have been asked to attend tomorrow's session in Commissioner Mason's office, along with Health Officer George C. Ruhland, Dr. Edgar A. Bocock, superintendent of Gallinger; Dr. Daniel Finucane, the Glenn Dale superintendent; District Budget Officer Walter F. Fowler and his assistant, William G. Wilding, and District Auditor Arthur R. Pilkerton.

Meanwhile, as other hospitals reported they are experiencing extreme difficulty in obtaining enough nurses to meet the rapidly increasing demands for hospital service, Miss Edith Beattie, executive secretary of the Graduate Nurses' Association, issued an urgent appeal to inactive members of the profession to return to active duty.

Nurses' Aides Sought. She also called on high school graduates interested in nursing careers and women who can serve voluntarily as nurses' aides to help relieve the situation. Miss Beattie pointed out that there are only about 5,000 graduate nurses registered in Washington today—no more than the city had before the war. Information on how they can help can be obtained at the association's headquarters, at 1746 K street N.W., she said.

Reporting on the situation at Garfield, Dr. Francis J. Eisenman, the superintendent, declared the shortage has reached the critical stage. Some months ago, he disclosed, Garfield was forced to close a medical-surgical ward containing 11 beds because of a lack of nurses.

He paid tribute to members of the Red Cross nurses' aide service who, he said, have been "doing a wonderful job" helping out the regular nursing corps at Garfield.

Miss Ashby Taylor, director of nursing at Children's Hospital, who has just returned from a meeting of the Graduate Nurses Association in Chicago, said reports received there indicated that hospitals throughout the country are experiencing shortages of nurses.

B. B. Sandidge, superintendent of Emergency Hospital, said the situation there has become so critical that lay help was being pressed into nursing duties, working under the supervision of graduate nurses.

"We're managing to get along," he said, "but the situation isn't getting any better. Something will have to be done to get more nurses."

Supt. Bocock of Gallinger said the shortage there was not as marked as at other institutions.

Miss Elizabeth M. Rogers, superintendent of Casualty Hospital, said the shortage "hasn't been as bad as it might be," but that many additional graduate nurses are needed.

30 Boys' Club Members Contest In Annual Model Boat Regatta



Three types of boats shown in the annual regatta of the Police Boys' Club yesterday at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool. Builders and boat owners are James Robertson, with his sailboat; Bobby Lyons, with his liner, and George Tauber with his rubber paddle boat. These boys are from Club No. 5. —Star Staff Photo.

The annual model boat regatta of the Metropolitan Police Boys' Club was held yesterday at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool with more than 30 boys entering craft in the competition. All boats entered were built by Boys' Club members.

Placing first and second in the sail boat race were James Robertson of No. 5 Club and Morton King of No. 10 Club. Robertson and Charles Currey of No. 4 Club were first and second in the sail boat design contest.

In the rubber-band boat race, all places for events were won by members of No. 4 Club. Robert Sanbower and Raymond Denikas finished first and second. Denikas and Edward Hobbs were first and second in design.

In the "ocean liner" class, non-propelled models, Robert Lyons and Walter Perry, both of No. 5 Club, won first and second places.

Oldest Inhabitants Hear Roper Urge Faith in Future

Counsel of 'Older Heads' Promotes Feeling of Security, He Says

Daniel C. Roper, former Secretary of Commerce, last night urged members of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants to have faith in the future.

Speaking on the occasion of his first appearance as a vice president of the association, Mr. Roper said in these times the counsel of "older heads" was necessary for "one's security of feeling." This is not the first time older people have passed through trying times, he added.

"I wish," he said, "that they would tell those who predict dire things, of what they have gone through."

The theme of the evening was outstanding parades along Pennsylvania avenue. John Clagett Proctor, who presided over the meeting, said that the best combined military and civic parade he ever saw was the one for the first inauguration of President Cleveland.

Jesse C. Suter recalled that the inaugural parade for President Benjamin Harrison was a "tragic" one for the High School Cadets, of which he was a member. There was only a single battalion at that time at the one and only "Old Central," on O street. The dreary rains which began in the morning and continued through the day caused school officials to call off participation by the cadets. "They were all ready to go, headed by a band, when the much-disappointed battalion was dismissed. They had an opportunity later in the same week, however," he said, "to parade to the White House and shake hands with the President."

John B. Dickman, sr., recording secretary, read the names of three members who had died since the last meeting. F. Lawrence Walker, Sidney Smith and Albert E. Betzell.

New Control Center For Montgomery Is Being Installed

Increase in Personnel Will Be Required Under Expanded Plans

Work on a new control center for Montgomery County civilian defense has been started, it was announced today by Albert E. Brault, county director of civilian defense.

Plans for the center were prepared by Fred W. Tuemmler, director of planning for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, who is technical adviser for the County Defense Corps, in cooperation with Office of Civilian Defense communications experts and local defense chiefs.

The present control center was established under emergency conditions, and is inadequate, county civilian defense officials say. Expansion gained from blackouts and air-raid drills has suggested a number of changes and modifications of procedure, Judge Brault explained.

Increase in Personnel. The new control center will require an increase in personnel, and training of these workers will be started at once under direction of Mr. Tuemmler. Approximately 24 persons will be required for operation of the center, Mr. Tuemmler said, and additional persons must be trained as substitutes.

Meanwhile county civilian defense officials have decided to use Boy Scouts in the casualty stations of the emergency medical service, Judge Brault said.

Dr. Dexter M. Bullard, chief of the medical service, recommended that six trained Boy Scouts above the age of 16, be assigned to each casualty station.

Plans Messenger Service. Boy Scouts also probably will be assigned as messengers and aides in the control center and in the various county report centers.

Ten members of the auxiliary fire service of the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department were graduated last night at the Takoma Firehouse. They are Alia D. Burch, Charles F. Lee, Alva Randall, Samuel Yakush, L. G. Small, Charles Snyder, William Tasker, H. E. Twing, Ralph J. Walter and Carl Zager.

Batted Ball Kills Girl

RICHMOND, Va., June 4 (AP)—Edith Mae Brooks, 8, died yesterday a few minutes after a batted baseball struck her over the heart while she was playing with a group of children.

Sale of 30,000 Pepco Shares at Par Approved

Hankin Dissents; Holds Actual Value Means Stock Dividend

Sale of 30,000 shares of common stock of the Potomac Electric Power Co. to its immediate holding company, the Washington Railway & Electric Co., at \$100 a share—approved late yesterday by the Public Utilities Commission—touched off charges that the issue would constitute an illegal "stock dividend."

This and other charges were made by Gregory Hankin, the Commission chairman, in a 5,000-word opinion in which he dissented from the ruling made by James H. Flanagan and Engineer Commissioner Charles W. Kutz, the other PUC members.

It revived debate over the acquisition by the North American Co., a giant utilities holding company, of stock in Washington utilities in the light of the terms of the La Follette Anti-Merger Act. North American controls Wreco, which owns all of the common stock of Pepco.

Several months ago, at the instance of Mr. Hankin, the Utilities Commission began a probe of North American interests here, but most of these issues were excluded from the proceedings over the 30,000 share stock issue, and reserved for later action. The Securities and Exchange Commission also is considering the future of North American.

Sees Big Resale Value. Mr. Hankin declared that the value of Pepco stock, if sold publicly would be between \$500 and \$600 a share, rather than the \$100 par value stated in the approved petition. He said: "One thing is clear: If Wreco is permitted to acquire these 30,000 shares of stock for some \$3,000,000, then it will be quite possible for the Wreco to dispose of these shares at their actual value, namely, \$15,000,000 to \$18,000,000, thus transferring some \$12,000,000 to \$15,000,000 from surplus into profit."

He added that this brings up the question of whether the issue would constitute a stock dividend. Quoting the law banning stock dividends, Mr. Hankin said: "If the value of the stock is somewhere between \$500 and \$600, and if Wreco as the sole holder of Pepco is permitted to acquire such stock as \$100, then the excess in value of the stock over par is being distributed to the stockholders as a stock dividend, contrary to the provision of the statute."

"The witnesses for the companies took the position that so long as there is a consideration paid for the stock, it cannot be regarded as a stock dividend. This, of course, is absurd, because then the statute may be circumvented by the payment of a nominal consideration for any stock issue, with the result that a stock dividend may be declared under the guise of a sale of stock, which is exactly what the companies now are seeking to do."

Company officials denied this was so at hearings on the issue. The commission majority, from its review of the April 9 hearing on the case, found that the proposed finance plan to be "the most appropriate method of raising the \$3,000,000 presently required and is in the interest of investors and consumers."

Differing sharply with Mr. Hankin's views, the majority declared suspension of the usual competitive bidding rule was warranted in this case in view of the fact that Wreco owns 100 per cent of the Pepco common stock.

Restricts Pepco Dividends. The majority also declared, "There is nothing in the record of this proceeding to indicate that the proposed transaction, if consummated, will result in the declaration of a stock dividend. In fact, the testimony offered by both commission and applicants' witnesses and the authorities referred to in the record justifies our finding that the sale . . . will not result in the declaration of a stock dividend to the extent of the value of such shares in excess of \$100. We, therefore, find that the price of \$100, being the par value of the stock, is an appropriate price."

The order carries restrictions on cash dividends Pepco directors may order until December 31, 1944.

New Air Training Center

A pre-flight training center will be commissioned at the University of Georgia, Athens, today, the Navy announced. Classes at the school, the third established by the Navy, are scheduled to start June 11.

Capt. Charles E. Smith of Washington has been named commanding officer of the new center.



MAIN BREAK LEAVES WAR DEPARTMENT DRY—When a bulldozer, grading for the War Department road network in Arlington County, struck an 18-inch water main yesterday, this spectacular "geyser" spurted into the air attracting crowds of onlookers. The break, near the Lee Boulevard Bridge in the George Washington Memorial Parkway, was repaired late last night after the water supply to the new War Department Building and the Washington National Airport had been cut off for several hours. —Star Staff Photo.

Freedmen's Interns Exacted Patient Fees, GAO Charges

Nurses in Charge of Infants Wrote Liquor Prescriptions, Probers Say

A General Accounting Office report on an investigation of Freedmen's Hospital contained detailed charges of "laxness, carelessness and negligence" in the handling of liquor, "extreme carelessness and negligence" in handling drugs and narcotics and improper professional practices by Dr. T. Edward Jones, director, and members of his staff.

The GAO report was made public by a House Appropriations Subcommittee which also investigated the hospital. Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt has informed the subcommittee that a down-the-line shake-up is in store for the institution's administrators, including the "retirement" of Dr. Jones.

The report includes a recommendation that Dr. Jones be required to reimburse the Government in the amount of \$1,086 for a purported shortage of 23 1/4 quarts of whiskey and for alleged breakage in liquor stocks.

Explanation Requested. The improper professional practices alleged in the report included the exaction of payments from patients by interns, a close working arrangement between interns and lawyers on accident cases having the prospect of damage suits, and the extension of free hospital services to the families and friends of members of the visiting staff.

Regarding the whiskey shortage, the report quoted Dr. Jones as explaining it by saying that the original inventory of supplies was incorrect. Dr. Jones' subsequent explanation was "illogical and unsatisfactory."

The report noted that two instances of alleged breakage in shipments of liquor occurred shortly after Dr. Jones was authorized to travel at Government expense to a medical convention and around the time when the hospital was host to a convention of former interns.

It charged that hospital regulations in allowing nurses to write prescriptions for liquor and alleged that 38 prescriptions were made out "in favor of non-hospitalized employees and others, who gratuitously received liquor."

"Careless Handling of Drugs." "It is public information at the hospital that any one who was in favor with the administrative officials, especially the chief, could at any time be supplied with a prescription for gratuitous liquor," the report charged.

"Under the present system of dispensing liquor stimulants, an examination of the liquor prescriptions disclosed that a few nurses, irrespective as to the wards to which they are assigned, at various intervals, prescribed enormous quantities of liquor."

"A particular case in question concerns one, Nurse E. Sweeting, who on being assigned to the infants' ward continued to prescribe unusually large quantities of liquor." As to the dispensing of drugs and narcotics, the report asserted that a Public Health Service official agreed "that the hospital's method of handling and recording drugs was careless and inefficient and could lead to illegal dispensations."

Agents of the Narcotics Bureau stated, the report said, that they found "extreme carelessness and negligence" in the handling of drugs and narcotics by the ward attendants and they found erasures and alterations on, and evidence of tampering with, narcotic prescriptions.

The report charges that an intern, Dr. Everett J. Robertson, exacted \$25 from an indigent patient, which he turned over to the hospital after he had been questioned regarding it. Another patient, the report alleged, was forced to pay \$20 to an intern, Dr. Alvin C. Thornton, to obtain admission to the hospital. The money later was returned after investigation, it was said.

There have been "numerous complaints" about the quality and quantity of meals, the report said, concluding that there were "numerous instances of inefficiency and wastage" in the dietary department. It recommended "consistent planning" of meals and maintenance of perpetual inventory of foodstuffs.

B. C. Held Overcharged. A survey of admission of patients reported by Arthur Pilkerton, District Auditor, led Mr. Pilkerton to conclude that "the hospital is overcharging the District government for indigent patients," the report said. The District is required to reimburse the hospital for indigent patients at a base rate of 64 per cent of the hospital's appropriations.

The hospital maintains no perpetual inventory of supplies and equipment, the report asserted, adding that "it is believed that a considerable reduction in the expenditures can be effected through the elimination of wastage and breakage" through a more systematic accounting of supplies.

It has been the practice of Dr. T. Edward Jones . . . to extend professional courtesy to certain persons seeking admittance to the hospital, a practice which does not appear to be authorized in any of the statutes and/or the regulations of Freedmen's Hospital," the report declared.

"An examination of the admission records discloses that professional courtesy has been extended to include members of the family, relatives and friends of the administrative officials of the hospital, and to members of the family, relatives and friends of members of the visiting staff."

"The custom is to assign the patient to a private room and to extend all the facilities of the hospital to the patient without charge. Such action is based upon the fallacious theory that inasmuch as the attending physician is extending professional courtesy for his services, the hospital should do likewise."

"Recently it has become more difficult to detect cases of professional courtesy since the patients are admitted as pay patients, at which time they make a nominal payment on the account, and the administrative officials do not press for payment of the balance due on the account."

Patients who allegedly received such "courtesy" included Mordcael W. Johnson, Jr., son of the president of Howard University; the late Allan F. Jackson, father of Dr. Lawrence F. Jackson, assistant director of the hospital, and Dr. Jones' late wife.

The report charged that early in

Legislators to Confer With Mrs. Roosevelt On D. C. Institutions

Blue Plains and Home For Children Slated To Be Discussed

On invitation of Mrs. Roosevelt, a group of Senate and House leaders on District affairs are to attend a White House conference at 9:30 a. m. tomorrow, at which it is understood, the Home for the Aged and Infirm at Blue Plains will be discussed. It has been suggested that the Receiving Home for Children and the broad question of District health and charities will also come under discussion.

Those invited to attend include Chairman O'Mahoney of the Subcommittee on District Appropriations, Chairman Randolph of the House District Committee, Representative Dirksen of Illinois, ranking minority member of the District Committee; Chairman Schulte of the Subcommittee on Public Health of the District Committee, Chairman Mahon of the House Subcommittee on District Appropriations of the District Committee and the ranking minority member of that subcommittee, Representative Stefan of Nebraska.

The District appropriation bill, as it passed the House, carried practically everything that was asked for Blue Plains. The House itself approved a committee amendment which provided for dining room attendants in substitution for WPA employees, whose jobs would be vacated by the closing of that project.

Appropriation of \$121,300 was carried for the present fiscal year for construction of a receiving home for children. During the hearings on the appropriation bill for the coming fiscal year emphasis was given by Conrad Van Hyning, District director of public welfare, that this new building was badly needed, and that by the reclassification of nurses would be added and the medical service reorganized, with a corresponding cut in the custodial staff.

The investigation Dr. Jones removed from the investigators' quarters certain liquor records, later restored, and attempted to deny such working space to the investigators.

It was charged that Dr. Jones, in a conference with Secretary of the Interior Ickes, charged that the GAO inquiry was "for the sole purpose of discrediting, embarrassing and persecuting the Secretary, the assistant secretary and himself." The hospital is now under the jurisdiction of the Federal Security Agency but formerly was under the Interior Department.

Dr. Jones told The Star yesterday that he had applied to the FSA for retirement several months ago because of the recurrence of a disability incurred during the last World War. He said he might go into private practice if his health would permit but first planned to take an "extended rest."

He said that of his 41 years in Federal service, 28 had been at the hospital. He pointed to a statement last week by Capt. Watson B. Miller, FSA assistant administrator, exonerating him of any "personal or official dishonesty" and stating that irregularities were of a bookkeeping and financial nature rather than in the quality of medical care.

Dr. Jackson was not available for comment yesterday.

The National Capital Parks campfire programs are being held in the Sylvan Theater, on the Monument grounds, this year because of convenience of location to streetcar and bus lines. Previously the programs were held in Rock Creek Park.

Park Naturalist Donald Edward McHenry will preside. There is no admission charge.

War Benefits To Be Allowed At D. C. Schools

Defense Officials To Certify Groups Raising Money

The Board of Education yesterday agreed to relax its rules on use of school properties for money raising purposes to permit duly authorized civilian defense committees to use buildings and grounds for benefit performances.

The members specified, however, that such groups would have to be certified by the Office of the Coordinator of Civilian Defense before permission will be granted and added that the gross receipts, minus only the necessary custodial and other charges incident to use of the buildings and grounds, must go "only for such officially approved use and purchase of articles of equipment as authorized by the Office of Civilian Defense of the District."

Several civilian defense groups, notably the Potomac and Arkansas avenue areas, have petitioned the board to take such action, since under present rules they are unable to obtain a permit for school properties for fund raising events. Some communities have elected to stage benefit events for civilian defense in lieu of door-to-door solicitation.

Use of Stadiums Approved. Board members approved the relaxation as their policy for the duration of the war and have turned the matter over to their Rules Committee to change the regulation to conform.

They also agreed to permit Sunday use of school stadiums for softball games under the supervision of the department of recreation provided cheering crowds do not disturb the neighborhoods. School and recreation officials for pointed out that the grounds are now used on an unsupervised basis and that legal operation under supervision would be preferable to this. It was also pointed out that recreation facilities have been reduced in recent months as a result of their being taken over by the Federal Government for defense uses.

Use of schools for the forthcoming registration of men between the ages of 18 and 20 June 30 was authorized. The registration, fifth to use the school building for selective service purposes, will be directed by Dr. Chester W. Holmes, who has handled the others, in 50 schools.

Registrars Are Needed. A circular was to go out to the school system today calling for volunteer registrars. If enough are not found, the registration, fifth to use the school building for selective service purposes, will be directed by Dr. Chester W. Holmes, who has handled the others, in 50 schools.

Because its next regular meeting would fall in the midst of high school graduations, the members changed the date of the next session to June 12.

The 1944 school budget will be set up under a new procedure approved by the members. Instead of more than 30 appropriation items, there will be only seven, corresponding to the functions of the schools. The change will make it possible to see at a glance what the maintenance costs of the schools are, for example, or the instructional costs, without having to take parts of several items and add them up as at present.

A report on the school medical services received by the board for the year ending last June 30 showed medical services had been provided at 202 schools. Medical examiners gave 38,781 complete and 90,638 partial physical examinations to public and parochial school pupils totaling more than 102,000 enrollment.

Two of the high school swimming pools should be further purified, the inspection report said, adding that hygiene conditions were on the whole good.

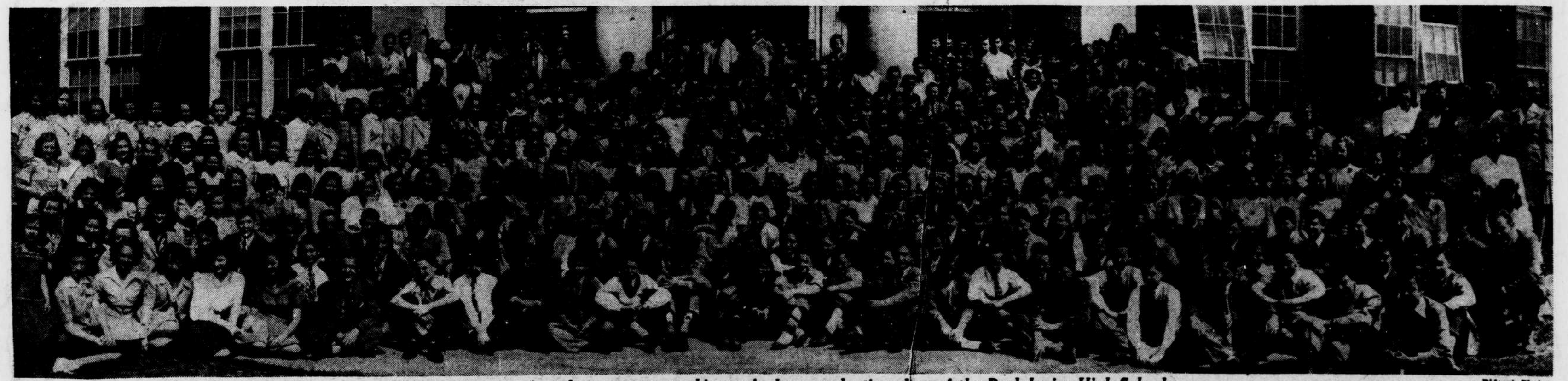
Campfire Programs Open Tomorrow at Monument

John V. Hanson, lecturer and color photographer, will open the series of campfire programs at the Sylvan Theater at 8:30 p. m. tomorrow with a presentation of his latest color film, "The Glory of the National Parks."

During the twilight half-hour preceding the lecture, a recorded musical program will be played by Miss Catherine Nimitz, music librarian, Public Library.

The National Capital Parks campfire programs are being held in the Sylvan Theater, on the Monument grounds, this year because of convenience of location to streetcar and bus lines. Previously the programs were held in Rock Creek Park.

Park Naturalist Donald Edward McHenry will preside. There is no admission charge.



This huge group of students represents this year's June graduating class of the Deal Junior High School.

—Hildest Photo.